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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/643,207	08/21/2000	PAUL N. WEINBERG	2729.300	8393
36067	7590	05/20/2004	EXAMINER	
DALINA LAW GROUP, P.C. 7910 IVANHOE AVE. #325 LA JOLLA, CA 92037			PAULA, CESAR B	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		2178		
DATE MAILED: 05/20/2004				

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	09/643,207	WEINBERG ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	CESAR B PAULA	2178	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 August 2000.

2a) This action is FINAL.                  2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1,9 and 17 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 2-8, 10-16, and 18-24 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 21 August 2000 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some \* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

#### Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. This action is responsive to the application filed on 8/21/2000.

**This action is made Non-Final.**

2. Claims 1-24 are pending in the case. Claims 1, 9, and 17 are independent claims.

***Priority***

3. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(e), and based on U.S provisional application # 60/149,855 filed on 8/19/1999, which papers have been placed of record in the file.

***Drawings***

4. The drawings filed on 8/21/2000 have been approved by the examiner.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1, 9, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Underdahl, B., "Using QuattroPro 6 For Windows" Special Edition, hereinafter Quattropro, QUE, 1994, pp. 420-431.

Regarding independent claim 1, Quattropro discloses the modification of database records, formatted into columns and rows—*tabular portion of user interface*— by adding or deleting the records from a displayed interface (page 420, line 17-page 421, fig. 12.3-12.4).

Moreover, Quattropro discloses sorting of database records, using a "Block Sort" dialog box—*form portion of the user interface*— having several fields, which specify all fields in the records to be sorted, etc., (page 422, line 9-page 423, fig. 12.5).

Moreover, Quattropro discloses a user sorting of database records, using a "Block" field in the "Block Sort" dialog box to specify all fields in the records to be sorted, (page 422, line 9-page 423, fig. 12.5).

Furthermore, Quattropro discloses the user specifies a block of records, which includes all fields, such as company, address, city, etc., which characterize or describe the data in the records—*characteristics of the data contained in the data records*— for all records to be sorted (page 422, line 9-page 423, fig. 12.5).

Claim 9 is directed towards a computer-readable memory medium for storing the steps found in claim 1, and therefore is similarly rejected.

Claim 17 is directed towards a computer-executable process for implementing the steps found in claim 1, and therefore is similarly rejected.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

7. Claims 2-8, 10-16, and 18-24 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Quattropro teaches the use of sort keys, using fields for each sort key, to sort records based on the field(s) of the records (pages 422-427). A user inputs the sort key criteria, such as a business type, or a business name (page 425, lines 14-20), and then the records are displayed in a sorted order corresponding to the sort key criteria. However, Quattropro fails to teach or suggest the changing or formatting of a value displayed in a form field, when it is determined that the records share the same value, include a common value and no value, include multiple values, or have no value (claims 2, 10, and 18).

***Conclusion***

I. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Wisniewski (Pat. # 6,460,059), Crim (Pat. # 6,613,099), Ranger (Pat. # 6,301,584), Enokido et al. (Pat. # 5,933,634), Eick et al, "Seesoft--A Tool For Visualizing Line Oriented Software Statistics", IEEE Trans. on Softw. Eng., vol.18, no.11, 11/92, "The Land Grant Training Alliance Online WP 6.1 Merge Lessons", <http://www.lgta.org/wp61mrg/wp61.mrg.L3.all.htm>, 1997, lesson 3.

II. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cesar B. Paula whose telephone number is (703) 306-5543. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon, can be reached on (703) 308-5186. However, in such a case, please allow at least one business day.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Any response to this Action should be mailed to:

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Or faxed to:

- (703) 703-872-9306, (for all Formal communications intended for entry)

Art Unit: 2178

**Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive,  
Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).**



CESAR B PAULA  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 2178

5/13/04